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DATE: January 20, 2005 09942

PTO IDENTIFIER: Application Number 10/501,702
Patent Number

Inventor: Sabine Homann

MESSAGE TO: US Patent and Trademark Office

FAX NUMBER: (703) 872-9306

FROM: FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

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Attorney Dkt. #: HO-P03030US0

PAGES (Including Cover Sheet): 22

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Foreign References (2 patents)
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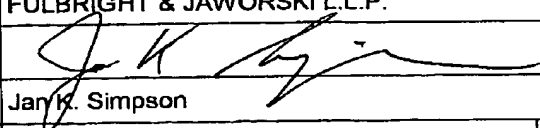
PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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|--|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i> | Application Number | 10/501,702 | |
| | Filing Date | July 16, 2004 | |
| | First Named Inventor | Sabine Homann | |
| | Art Unit | N/A | |
| | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned | |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | 22 | Attorney Docket Number | HO-P03030US0 |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): _____ Foreign References (2 patents) Certificate of Transmission |
| Remarks | | |
| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | | |
| Firm Name | FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P. | |
| Signature |  | |
| Printed name | Jary K. Simpson | |
| Date | January 20, 2005 | Reg. No. 33,283 |

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Docket No.: HO-P03030US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Sabine Homann

Application No.: 10/501,702

Confirmation No.: 5092

Filed: July 16, 2004

Art Unit: N/A

For: PACKING UNIT

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

A copy of each foreign reference on the PTO/SB/08 is attached.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

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Application No.: 10/501,702

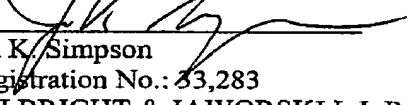
Docket No.: HO-P03030US0

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P03030US0. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: January 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

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| | | Application Number | 10/501,702 | | |
| | | Filing Date | July 16, 2004 | | |
| | | First Named Inventor | Sabine Homann | | |
| | | Art Unit | N/A | | |
| | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | HO-P03030US0 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | AA | US-4,928,839 | 05-29-1990 | Donald A. Kruelskie | |
| | AB | US-5,312,011 | 05-17-1994 | Dan E. Fischer | |
| | AC | US-5,890,595 | 04-06-1999 | William S. Credle, Jr. | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ³ |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | BA | WO 02/28736 | 04-11-2002 | Mark Ostrowski, et al. | | |
| | BB | GB-1,145,924 | 03-19-1969 | Stephen Fotos | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| 25494182 | |

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Application No. (if known): 10/501,702

Attorney Docket No.: HO-P03030US0

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